

### **Tree Preservation Orders – Blessington**

Blessington is a town that has expanded dramatically in recent decades. Many of the housing estates built in the last 25 years incorporated the existing tree landscape in order to enhance the visual amenities of the area. However, according to the draft County Development Plan, there are no existing or proposed Tree Preservation Orders in place in Blessington, and only two in the entire Baltinglass Municipal District.

Should any trees that are contained in the Tree Preservation Orders be removed by permission of Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Council should make public in advance of the felling of the tree a written explanation of how the decision was made to grant the felling of the tree. A suitably qualified and independent tree surgeon and/or arborist should be consulted before such decisions are made.

Should any trees that are contained in the Tree Preservation Orders be removed by permission of Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Council should promote a “succession planting” initiative whereby seedlings from the trees are grown in advance of the felling and put back in place for future generations.

There should be consequences for any trees contained in the Tree Preservation Orders that are felled without permission granted by Wicklow County Council. As it would be impossible to acquire a tree of a similar age, there should be strong consequences which are enforced by Wicklow County Council.

The following areas are hereby proposed to be included for amenity purposes in the Draft 2021-2027 Wicklow County Development Plan:

## 1. Glending Forest

Glending Forest is an area of archaeological significance, but also an essential amenity for the residents of Wicklow and Kildare. Some trees in the woods are evidenced on the Historic Map 6 inch Colour (1837-1842) available on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland website (osi.ie).

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/3c3PVnGaUqeNUUgL9>



*Recent satellite image of Glending Forest, available on OSI.ie*



*Historic Map 6 inch Colour (1837-1842) showing Glending Forest on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland website (osi.ie).*

## 2. Dempsey's Lane, Blessington

Dempsey's Lane is an area of beauty in the centre of Blessington. Trees present here have been present for over 100 years, as evidenced by the Historic Map 25 inch (1888-1913) available on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland website (osi.ie).

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/rpToWCD4N5PeCSa49>



*Recent satellite image of Dempsey's Lane, available on OSI.ie*



*Historic Map 25 inch (1888-1913) showing trees on Dempsey's Lane on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland website (osi.ie).*

### 3. Russborough House & Gardens

Countless mature trees are present in Russborough House & Gardens that are currently not on the Tree Preservation Order schedule. Oak trees were planted by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese in September 2011. A Wellingtonia tree was planted by Edward, Prince of Wales, Earl of Dublin, 150 years ago in September 1861. There are also beech and lime trees from c. 1750 present.

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/g2vWuBmpAUBCfwDF7>



*Recent satellite image of Russborough House, available on OSI.ie*



*Evidence of the trees on the Historic Map 6 inch Colour (1837-1842) on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland website (osi.ie)*

#### 4. Deerpark Estate, Blessington

There are approximately 15 fully mature beech trees present throughout Deerpark housing estate. These are trees that are estimated at over 100 years old:

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/6eLuBHeE3gArRna67>



*Recent satellite image of Deerpark Estate, available on OSI.ie*